

CBS NEWS - APOLLO 12 LUNAR LIFTOFF (11-20-1969)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs>)

Uploaded by [DANNOTCH'S NEWSVIDEOS](#)

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7X0LKts7k4FT498ld_x5sg) on Tue May 18 2021.

From November 20th, 1969 CBS NEWS Coverage of Apollo 12 's Intrepid liftoff from the moon.

- Coverage runs from 9:25 A.M E.T - 10:13 A.M E.T

Apollo 12 Crew:

Commander: Charles "Pete" Conrad Jr.

Command Module Pilot: Richard F. Gordon Jr.

Lunar Module Pilot: Alan L. Bean

[00:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs)

30 seconds average looking good pete okay ten seconds five eight seven six five five three two one let's go the ignition guidance looks good 316 feet above the lunar surface well i don't know what [Music] coming up on one minute this program looks good and trump at houston looking good at one minute we should now be moving about 307 miles an hour in there you've got right honey you've

[00:02:21 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=141s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=141s)

feet above the lunar surface lasting houston go at two modules roger squawk 2-1 referring to is the air traffic control limit of 24 000 feet above that you have to have clearance coming up on three minutes there'll be a problem on the moon one day three minutes 1752 194 claiming out of 25 000. you can't have passed that dhf also [Music] they get it

[00:04:08 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=248s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=248s)

wants a vhf signal so he can range on him to check his solutions [Music] everything was all right [Music] that's 690 miles an hour they're seven miles [Music] hey [Music] bad hey that's an endearing expression from a fighter pilot hot machine yes indeed okay five the arbor masters chaired into the main club channel playing on the ships what's it the harbor master cleared them into the main

[00:06:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=361s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=361s)

harbor master cleared them into the main channel now over 49 000 feet in altitude coming up on six minutes six minutes okay [Music] it should be at the herbal insertion speed 374 they're already in a stable orbit thousand feet per second velocity okay okay open open they go coming up on seven minutes okay sure look like that should fly amazing

[00:08:21 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=501s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=501s)

the master alarm is the final key to any anomaly if anything happens it will come on then you look for that anomaly and that's a sequence of all those lights we saw in life oh okay okay just uh [Music] now okay i took it all out yeah i got interested in this uh right now they should all found a indicated barber okay burger the inverter one open automatically they can't uh control speed with this single thrust engine i mean it's not like uh the controllable thrust of the descent stage no this is fixed thrust and cut off on time when they get to the velocity they would like to have so what are what uh what causes an over thrust of over speed as they seem to have gotten here apparently he didn't cut it off exactly at the right instant so he kept applying acceleration now he can decelerate with his other thrusters the

[00:10:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=600s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=600s)

decelerate with his other thrusters the attitude thrusters which are both attitude and translation so you heard it we're setting up the relay now jerry so you i see you're trimming meaning he's reducing the speed back to the desired speed they have fun with their launches don't they yeah you heard that report there was a little bit of an overburn uh trimmed out very nicely however we're at uh when houston clipper is not reading a vhf we're configuring for miss fenrir eleno [Music] what's up what's that one other than just trying to give him uh another uh antenna to pick up for relaying the vhf so that the command module can receive that frequency range which is the uh spectrum with which they can rent which with the command module can affect ranging on the limb to determine the distance of the two are apart that's a backup mode uh used by the command module to verify the rendezvous of course the primary mode is in the limb itself the command line was there quite passively as a target uh gordon in the yankee clipper is in a 71.2 by 67. now we're in the relay mode and he was uh almost directly overhead when they lifted off hello by the time they came interrupted that did you read clippers answer yeah i read them because they're in a lower orbit they of course are going faster in relation to the moon than is gordon so they catch up very good period before the they start

[00:12:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=720s)

period before the they start making the breaking maneuvers yeah about ready for launch on one of these flights for that little bit of information don't think that came easy to appeal this is a master alarm during the boosted phase apparently it was a very minor phenomena that didn't affect the performance obviously we've had uh early in the game master alarms came as like bags of peanuts we had them all the time they kept trying to figure out what they were and they i guess recoined the worth it wasn't used very often the uh anomaly numbers were an orbit of 47 nautical miles by nine nautical miles very close to normal we're at uh 142 hours of 16 minutes and now to the flight so the liftoff was apparently perfect whatever that anomaly was hasn't shown up in the actual flight uh they intrepid is off the moon into the orbit it expected to be and now it's catching up to the command module for the rendezvous [Music] cbs news color coverage of the flight of apollo 12 will continue in a moment western electric is making installing and testing a new electronic switching system for the bell telephone network it is the biggest project ever undertaken by bell labs and western electric and it'll let your telephone do things for you it has never done before for example if you should leave home you'll just dial in a code and the number where you're going [Music] and your calls will be automatically transferred [Music]

[00:14:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=840s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=840s)

[Music] hello also you'll be able to add three or four of your friends onto the same conversation tomorrow i don't think so i think it's john's turn frequently call numbers will be dialed by using two or four digits instead of the usual seven or ten the new electronic switching system will root calls faster and more dependably than ever before to accomplish this western electric has set up a whole new manufacturing technology the system requires electronic and solid-state components memory units to store information and call routing devices that operate in millions of a second the system will even test itself and automatically point out the source of trouble if it occurs we're also making an electronic switching system that will be the talk of the town western electric manufacturing and supply unit of the bell system liftoff has gone well and now conrad and bean and intrepid begin a series of maneuvers as they catch up with dick gordon in the command module they achieve

rendezvous that is the terminal uh maneuvers uh before docking at 12 45 or three hours and five minutes from now that's eastern time they dock about 17 minutes later and then an hour and uh 25 minutes later [Music] gordon our conrad uh climbs back into the command module and then alan bean follows him about another uh 20 minutes later after

[00:16:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=960s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=960s)

about another uh 20 minutes later after that the jettison of the lunar module the intrepid that has served them so well and send it driving back into the moon's a surface hopefully very near where the ascent stage of the intrepid still rests and that scientific package that they put up there on the moon and laid out so well they hope with that impact a known mass at a known speed to hitting the moon uh near the seismometer that they'll get a good read on just exactly what the seismometer the moon quake meters uh capabilities are nasa has made an interesting announcement that the crew of apollo 12 is going to have the first news conference while in lunar orbit that will be a first indeed but nasa is accepting questions from scientists and newsmen and uh they're going to be screened by nasa and some of those questions are going to be asked of the astronauts during their last television transmission i guess they will have left moon orbit they will have by then they leave tomorrow afternoon but they'll be on the way back they'll be between the moon and the earth and that last television transmission which is early sunday evening so there's going to be a sort of a face the moon panel there on sunday afternoon well for those of you who may have been asleep last night when conrad and dean took their second and their longest walk on the moon david schumacher is standing by to review that exploration dave well or after this morning's walk it now seems safe to say that man will be able to do more on the moon than we'd ever dared hope conrad and bean compared themselves to galloping giraffes at times as they loped across the lunar surface on their scientific exploration their only complaint was they weren't provided with large enough bags for some of the documented samples of rocks that they wanted to bring back this is how it went i got the map right here i should take a

[00:18:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1082s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1082s)

i got the map right here i should take a look at this by the way this is the smartest idea we came up with just and this map just works great out here okay let me take a picture of this rock [Music] i'm gonna good feet that triple crater is just south of your present position and uh why don't you just go ahead and move on okay i got this [Music] and the bottom part of the rock is gray about half of it this rock happens to be about a six inch diameter rock that gives you stereo oil and the top is the same color as the uh you got it in your shadow yeah dude i'll take another one okay maybe you want it i can even use rocks out in here even uh the ones that are almost completely covered with the soil if i look at them i can see plants of crystals yeah every one of them all right let me have that there's your drew all right we're gonna hit for our bench crater okay [Music] yeah here they are those things are quite a bit lighter

[00:20:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1200s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1200s)

those things are quite a bit lighter gray up here on the top of the hill yeah the right approach that with your water if you want the triple craters [Music] pete we suggest you just move on to bench and uh comment on that double court tube if you find a spot that looks soft go ahead and sink the double core tube it's really a shame we can work out here for eight or nine hours the work is no strain at all all together this morning alone conrad and bean collected about 40 pounds of rocks surface material which they put in the sample return box and for good measure they scooped up another 20 pounds of rocks and put it in a spare bag once they were back inside conrad mentioned rather casually that he'd fallen over once during the rock collection and bean simply helped him up earlier it had been thought falling down was potentially one of the most serious things that could happen on the moon that is trying to get back up in the cumbersome spacesuits but apparently it wasn't much of a problem after all besides the rocks the astronauts also are returning pieces of equipment from the surveyor spacecraft particularly the camera which will give scientists here a chance to study the effects of aging on the lunar surface so here's how the activity went around the surveyor but for

how well things went this morning there are a few too bad besides the failure of that tape too bad for instance that the television camera wasn't working particularly since the engineers have now figured out a way that it could have been repaired at least partially and too bad that pete

[00:22:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1321s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1321s)

least partially and too bad that pete conrad apparently forgot that film magazine the only magazine of color pictures of the second walk it was left outside and finally it's too bad that they couldn't have stayed out a little longer you heard conrad say he thought they could have worked nine hours or more they did have about two hours of oxygen left once they were back inside so it seems clear now that it is the lunar module and not man that causes most of the limitations walter it is indeed too bad about that film that was left outside uh the problem was that they didn't discover it until after they'd already jettisoned the portable life support equipment that would have made it possible for them to go back out and get it if indeed they had decided on that somewhat risky maneuver however that wasn't possible at the time that they found that this last magazine had been left and those of you who were up with us in the hours the morning and heard the reports heard them going through their checklist uh the little spiral notebook that each of them has on the uh strapped to their wrist we heard pete conrad and adam bean going through that list and pete even said is there anything that we've left now and they checked that again and they determined that there wasn't well it's just like any of us going on a vacation trip there's always something back there at the house after you've gone through the first toll gate you find that it's not all packed away with you this time it's very precious motion pictures of that second walk which we had hoped were going to give us a view of the walk that we didn't get because there was no television camera there either of course cbs news color coverage of the flight of apollo 12 will continue in a moment 10 9 8 7 6 5 apos 4 to proceed proceed three two one zero

[00:24:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1442s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1442s)

trees grown by the international paper company will help carry man into space for we now know that nature in growing trees creates a substance ideal for spacecraft stronger lighter than metal another substance made from our trees can absorb up to 5000 degrees of heat to protect metal instruments or men sheltered behind it trees have been sheltering men for millions of years it's a never-ending story the international paper company where good ideas grow on trees i want to correct the fact that the film that was left behind uh perhaps was not the motion picture film uh it's not certain exactly what was left but the the the general impression at this point seems to be that it was still pictures and one of the reports we saw earlier was that the still pictures were partly of uh the undocking maneuvers uh out in space and then partly also of the walk the magazine definitely was we're told now from the 70 millimeter hasselblad the still picture camera that would have been a magazine of uh quite a number of pictures of course and they're sorry they're lost but the motion pictures apparently are intact whatever have been taken at any rate one magazine of pictures has been lost on the subject of last night's walk bruce morton in houston is with tim height an astrologist from the u.s geological survey and we'd like to hear what they feel they found from this second walk dr hank you were in the science support room listening to all the conversation it's probably kind of nasty to ask a geologist to generalize from words before you've seen the rocks but how do

[00:26:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1560s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1560s)

before you've seen the rocks but how do you think it went and what do you think they found that was new bruce we think it went just beautifully and one of the things we like is that superb pilots can also turn out to be superb geologists we especially like the way uh the way these fellows were so darn enthusiastic about the things they were seeing the new things well they found all kinds of all kinds of basalt rocks they said but they mentioned other kinds of rocks granites we don't know whether they're really granites or not but the uh go ahead were you surprised by all the talk about dust it uh seemed a whole lot dustier there than where 11 landed we were a little bit surprised it did seem dustier but we don't know really what this means yet what about these new kinds of rocks i soon remember people saying uh before this flight that probably uh most of the rocks would look pretty much the way the ones from 11 have well we're going to have to really wait until

these rocks come back they did mention as i say these granites things that look like granite but then they summarize their what they found in the rocks by saying that they looked all up pretty much like dark basalt so these are these are questions that we're still going to have to wait to see about the one thing this group had time to do of course was the uh was i think what alan bean called the rock dance this business of carefully photographing where some of the pieces of rock came from what do you learn from that that you wouldn't learn just from dumping it out of a box and saying here it is when you dump the rock out of a box you have a rock that you've dumped out of the box but but one of the things that we're interested in is the way this rock sits on the surface and the way the material is piled up around it because this tells us an awful lot of information about the kinds of processes that are going on right at the lunar surface so we need this in addition to just just a plane rock would you learn anything from bigger rocks i remember at one point they were talking about a rock that was bigger than the rock box and uh maybe they could just i don't think they brought it back but would that be a help in some ways a bigger rock goes farther but it depends what you're

[00:28:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1681s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U41RFV8vSSs&t=1681s)

goes farther but it depends what you're looking for too now bigger rocks you can see bigger structures or bigger bigger kinds of geological features they talked at one point about getting into a crater and i remember conrad i think it was saying uh that's got to be bedrock are we likely to get older rocks from this than we did from 11. this is still a question we uh we some of the rocks might turn out to be a little bit older but uh and it's anybody's guess right now the uh there's some indication anyway that

END